



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 19, 2013 1:30 P.M.

GCC students help 3rd graders learn science standards

They learned how to use microscopes, made goop out of glue and other chemicals, explored the concepts behind magnetism, and saw how an aquifer works. For 180 Tamuning Elementary School third graders, science came alive in the Guam Community College Multipurpose Auditorium Thursday, April 18, during the first annual GCC Science Symposium.

“It all started with a simple microscope,” explained Carol Calma, a third grade teacher at Tamuning Elementary. Her students needed to learn the parts of the microscope and how it works to prepare for their SAT-10 test. She didn’t have any microscopes, so she called her friend Dr. Jay Sunga, assistant professor of science at GCC, to see if he could help. Sunga took the entire 3rd grade science curriculum, and in a year’s time, he and his students developed 18 stations where science concepts come to life and students learn the key words and concepts that appear on the test and in the Guam Department of Education’s core standards for their level.

“They’re going to compare the scores from last year’s test to those from this year to see if we helped,” said Dr. Sunga. His students loved the idea of the symposium, he says, “because they’re learning to be leaders and learning how to teach science.”

Former GCC student Sherri Mantanona, now a student at the University of Guam, co-founded SIFA (Science Is Fun and Awesome), the GCC science club, and the symposium became the club’s project.

“The idea for SIFA is we want to be able to complement the STEM education in the schools,” Mantanona said.

Sunga says that already, four other elementary schools have asked to join the symposium next year. He says corporate and individual sponsors are willing to give money through the GCC Foundation in order to support and expand this very worthwhile project.

“It helps with the SAT-10 preparation in a fun way,” said Sunga.

Suggested photo captions:

Photo1

Tamuning Elementary third graders (from left) Daniel Pearson, Aiden Ulloa, and Minseol Kang explore a chemistry module during the 1st GCC Science Symposium on April 18 in the GCC Multipurpose Auditorium. The symposium, designed by GCC students and assistant professor

Dr. Jay Sunga, helped the students explore concepts they will need to know for the SAT10 test and for GDOE curriculum standards.

Photo 2

Tamuning Elementary School third grader Alexander Cuevas explores the solar system module during the 1st GCC Science Symposium on April 18 in the GCC Multipurpose Auditorium. The symposium, designed by GCC students and assistant professor Dr. Jay Sunga, helped the students explore concepts they will need to know for the SAT10 test and for GDOE curriculum standards.

Photo 3

Tamuning Elementary School third graders (from left) Angela Vergara and Trina May Lacuata explore the tundra biome module during the 1st GCC Science Symposium on April 18 in the GCC Multipurpose Auditorium. The symposium, designed by GCC students and assistant professor Dr. Jay Sunga, helped the students explore concepts they will need to know for the SAT10 test and for GDOE curriculum standards.

Individuals requiring special accommodations, auxiliary aids, or services please contact 735-5597.

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